

031104-000006.#340457

REMARKS

Claim 1 was rejected by the Office Action. Reconsideration of the claim as amended is respectfully requested.

A. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Claim 1 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,962,572 to Prentkowski (hereinafter "the Prentkowski reference"). The Applicant respectfully traverses.

Claim 1, as amended, specifically requires "wherein the first substantially c-shaped end engages the first vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces." Similarly, claim 1, as amended, specifically requires "wherein the second substantially c-shaped end engages the second vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces." The Prentkowski reference fails to teach these features of the claims. The Prentkowski reference teaches a lock bar 32 that was construed by the Office Action to be the third horizontal member. The first substantially c-shaped end was construed to be first end portion 82 and the second substantially c-shaped end was construed to be the second end portion 84. As FIG. 2 of the Prentkowski reference clearly illustrates, the ends 82 and 84 only engage the vertical members 66 and 70 on the top surface of those vertical members.

Conversely, claim 1, as amended, specifically requires "wherein the first substantially c-shaped end engages the first vertical member around both the top and bottom surfaces." Therefore, Prentkowski reference does not teach each and every feature of the claim either explicitly or inherently in the reference and therefore cannot anticipate the reference under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

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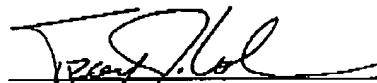
Moreover, there is no reference of record that teaches all the limitations of claim 1 or even suggests those limitations, singly, or in combination. Foremost, the Prentkowski reference teaches away from having the c-shaped ends of the third horizontal member engaging the vertical members on both the top and bottom surfaces. The Prentkowski reference teaches only engaging on the top surface of the vertical members. By teaching engaging on only one surface, the reference teaches away from having the c-shaped ends engage both surfaces. In addition, none of the other references teach or suggest this feature. Many of the other references have a sliding horizontal member, but none of them teach or suggest a sliding horizontal member that has two c-shaped ends that engage vertical members on both the bottom and top surface.

B. Conclusion

Accordingly, it is believed that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

Reconsideration of the present application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney to address any outstanding matters concerning the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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